Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, September 2, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/

PDMP Weekly Activity Report

Mollusk Action Plan Working Group:

Several members of the Mollusk Action Plan Working Group and PPQ identifiers presented papers at the American Malacological Society (AMS) symposium organized by the PPQ National Malacologist, David Robinson on "Snails and Slugs of Agricultural and Horticultural Importance" held on Sanibel Island, FL, the week before Hurricane Charley. It was the first such symposium at the AMS meeting and much interest was generated. Scientists from several countries also presented papers on mollusk problems in the Caribbean, Brazil, and Australia. The working group met separately to help finalize the PPQ New Pest Response Guidelines for Giant African Snail. The core working group consists of Carolyn Cohen (IS-Caribbean), Mark Hitchcox (PPQ-OR), Connie Riherd (Florida Department of Agriculture.), David Robinson (PPQ-PA) , Amy Roda, (CPHST-FL), Jim Smith (CPHST-NC), Tim Stevens (PPQ-NC), Jeff Stibick (PPQ-Riverdale) and Fred Zimmerman (PPQ-FL).
(For more information about the working group, contact joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov)
Source: Joel Floyd

2004 Pennsylvania Plum Pox Survey:

The 2004 PPV survey in Pennsylvania is now nearly complete, and it appears likely that the current results will provide a final statement on this year's survey. Over 202,000 samples have been collected by PPQ and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and processed by the State laboratory in Harrisburg. Out of 33,000 residential tree samples and more than 170,000 samples from commercial orchards only 4 trees were determined to be positive. Surveys conducted this year included over 1250 orchard blocks and 46,000 residential properties. Orchard blocks within the quarantine areas or in a 5 mile buffer around the quarantine areas were sampled at a 100 percent level, other orchards were sampled at a lower level. All host trees found at residential properties in and around the quarantine areas (about 13,600 residential properties had host material) were sampled. Positive finds this year include:

- A 3 acre orchard in Monigan Township (York County) with a single positive tree. This site is within the current quarantine area.
- A single tree at a residential property in South Middleton Township (Cumberland County). This site is also within the current quarantine area.
- And a 5.68 acre orchard in Monigan Township (York County). In this case there were 2 positive trees. This last orchard was again located within a current quarantine area, and just outside of the 500 meter buffer area surrounding the earlier positive orchard in Monigan Township.

As a result of these new detections there will be no changes in the current quarantine boundaries. All 4 of the infected trees have been removed, as well as the remaining trees in the infested orchards and all host plants within 500 meters of each of the infested properties. This has resulted in the destruction of a total of about 50 acres of orchard this year.
Source: Stephen Poe

Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey Program:

The National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) public website was launched in 1995 for public access to ready made pest distribution maps, Federal Register articles, and news of importance to the CAPS community. This website had recently been upgraded with a new uncluttered look to make it more public user friendly. Please review the website at http://www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis and provide feedback on how the new site works for you.

The NAPIS restricted website is also in the process of being updated and improved to make it more user friendly and efficient. In late July and early August, 3 user groups (a total of 21 NAPIS users - novices, occasional users, and expert users) reviewed the original proposed changes to NAPIS interface capabilities and to suggest additional changes. The database itself is **NOT** being changed, only the systems interface capabilities. Most of the original proposed and suggested additional changes should be operational by mid-October.
Source: Sidney Cousins

Noxious Weed:

Giant salvinia found in a 40 acre lake south of Hattiesburg, MS. It has been officially determined by PPQ as Salvinia sp., probably molesta. The water drains into an oxbow lake before flowing into the Leaf and Pascagoula Rivers. PPQ has offered to help with biological control, but the property owner and others have initiated herbicide treatments. This is the second giant salvinia infestation reported in Mississippi. A previous infestation of giant salvinia was eradicated.

The following DHS/IAIP Daily Report articles may be of USDA, emergency response, or Homeland Security interest:

Weed causing trouble in Southeast:

Tropical spiderwort, inconsequential for seven decades, has recently spread in alarming proportions in fields in Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina. There are more than 195,000 acres in Georgia infested. It's now widespread in Florida, and has been discovered on about 100 acres in Goldsboro, NC. Tropical spiderwort is now the most troublesome weed in Georgia cotton and the second most problematic weed in peanut. The weed competes with crops for water and nutrients, and smothers the crops at the same time. One reason for the surge in the weed's growth is its resistance to the commonly used herbicide glyphosate
Source: Al Tasker